

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	04 August 1999
Name of applicant/court:	Christian Heritage Party
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Untitled
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Artwork (ink on vellum)
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	Not Applicable

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Unrestricted.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The untitled artwork is classified as unrestricted.

The artwork is by New York artist Keith Haring. It is in black ink on a light coloured vellum and is 105.7cm x 133cm in dimension. It consists of a simple line drawing in which one figure impales a stick through the midriff of another. The figure holding the stick has another object in his other hand; it may be interpreted that he is masturbating. The impaled figure's body is lightly shaded with dots. The figure has his hands tied above his head.

In applying the criteria of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act), consideration has been given to the publication's treatment of matters of sex and violence.

In terms of its treatment of sex, one of the figures in the artwork could be considered to be masturbating. The figure holds an object which protrudes from his side. This depiction is simply drawn and highly ambiguous: the activity could be interpreted in a variety of ways, or missed altogether, by the viewer.

In terms of its treatment of violence, the s3(3) provision, the extent, manner and degree to which the publication depicts the infliction of serious physical harm, is considered. The simple, cartoon style of the drawing means the publication's treatment of the infliction of serious physical harm is inexplicit and entirely unrealistic.

In consideration of s3(4) of the FVPC Act, the dominant effect of the artwork is of a simply drawn work which could be interpreted in a variety of different ways. The work has considerable artistic and cultural merit, being part of the oeuvre of renowned artist Keith Haring.

Given the above, it is not likely that the availability of the publication will be injurious to the public good, and the publication is classified as unrestricted.

OFLC Ref: 9900928